

Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War

Korea 1950 – 1953

60th Anniversary

174-11
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois and the Korean War, August 1951

The State of Illinois is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War by supplying information each month about the state's involvement in the conflict.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Korean Memorial Association, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are sponsoring "Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War" along with media partners the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. For more information, visit www.Illinois-History.gov or www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinoisans killed in action in Korea, August 1951 **By county of residence**

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense records)

Boone	Cpl. Charles J. Newport, Army, August 27.
Cook	PFC William D. Baker, Army, August 31. Cpl. Thomas W. Beatty, Army, August 18. Sgt. George P. Belkom, Army, August 4. PFC Eugene A. Foss, Army, August 8. Pvt. Orona J. Guerrero, Army, August 27. Cpl. Richard A. Henry, Army, August 27. Sgt. Herbert W. Hoff, Jr., Army, August 30. Pvt. James A. Hofius, Army, August 27. Pvt. Arthur R. Kobie, Army, August 30. PFC Edward A. Krucek, Army, August 8. PFC Kas E.J. Lanau, Army, August 10. Pvt. Jack F. Orr, Army, August 21. PFC Frank Robinson, Army, August 7. PFC Alfred M. Rosenthal, Army, August 30. Cpl. John G. Schmitt, Army, August 8. Pvt. Walter J. Sieczka, Army, August 27.

	Pvt. Chester A. Skibicki, Army, August 27. Sgt. John A. Taylor, Army, August 21. Pvt. Jessie P. Warlick, Army, August 8. PFC Jack R. Westel, Army, August 8. PFC Leroy C. Young, Army, August 29.
Effingham	Pvt. Edgar W. Suckow, Army, August 27.
Fulton	PFC Harold B. Nidiffer, Army, August 31. Cpl. Sanford J. Smith, Army, August 24.
Greene	PFC Duane Wyatt, Army, August 10.
Knox	Cpl. Cecil A. Malcolm, Army, August 30. PFC John S. Munos, Army, August 27.
Livingston	PFC Robert W. Decker, Army, August 27.
Macoupin	PFC Eldred L. Brauer, Army, August 8.
Madison	Cpl. Donald E. Loire, Army, August 27.
Mason	Pvt. Ernest H. Bachmann, Army, August 30.
Peoria	Cpl. Phillip J. Evans, Army, August 26.
Rock Island	PFC Morton D. Mueller, Army, August 11.
Sangamon	Cpl. Robert L. Fontana, Army, August 30.
Tazewell	PFC Irving L. Gill, Army, August 27.
Vermilion	Pvt. James F. Shaw, Army, August 27.
Winnebago	Pvt. Ray R. Wheaton, Army, August 27.

Key events during the Korean War August 1951

August 1951 began with armistice talks still underway between United Nations and Communist representatives at Kaesong. The talks centered on two subjects, the first being the agenda itself. And item number one on that agenda was where the armistice line should be drawn. The Communists insisted on the 38th Parallel, while acting as if the United Nations had started the war in the first place. Admiral Turner C. Joy, the U.N.'s chief negotiator, pressed for a line that resembled the current outline of the fighting front. The talks were suspended August 5 by the United Nations when armed Communist

troops were found to be present in the neutral area where the talks were occurring. The negotiations resumed August 10, but were again halted August 22, this time by Communist representatives, because they alleged U.N. aircraft violated the neutral area. Thus ended the armistice talks at Kaesong which had begun just a month and a half before. The walkouts of delegations from both sides and the accusations of various infractions became the hallmark of the armistice talks that dragged on for the next two years.

Meanwhile, an intense, three-week battle began on August 17 along the jagged rim of the "Punchbowl," the scene of small-scale fighting during June and July. The Battle of Bloody Ridge, as it became known, started when United Nations forces sought to strengthen their defensive positions and dislodge stubborn enemy soldiers from hilltops and trenches. During the vicious three-week battle, a U.S. artillery battalion set a record by firing 14,425 rounds in 24 hours. The First Marine Division seized Bloody Ridge at a cost of 2,700 casualties in late August and early September, but the Battle of Bloody Ridge would barely be over before another, even more costly battle flared up just a few miles away.

The GIs had little choice but to endure, growing more frustrated with the impasse at the peace table with each passing month, counting the days when their tour in Korea would be done.

Illinois Korean War Memorial

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is located in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, the same cemetery that contains the Lincoln Tomb. Oak Ridge is the nation's second most visited burial ground behind only Arlington National Cemetery.

Dedicated on June 16, 1996, the memorial consists of a 12-foot-tall bronze bell mounted on a granite base. At the circumference of the base are four niches, each with a larger-than-life figure representing a branch of the armed services. Inscribed on the base are the 1,754 names of Illinoisans killed in Korea.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and may be visited daily free of charge.

Korean War Veterans Oral History Project Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's Oral History Program offers "Veterans Remember," a collection of interviews with Illinois residents about their wartime experiences, at the Library's website, www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html. The interviews concern the experiences of Illinois veterans who fought in several conflicts, including the Korean War, as well as the experiences of those on the home front. Visitors to the website can listen to or watch the interviews in their entirety. Several of the interviews have transcripts, and most have still images as well.

Website visitors will need a computer capable of playing MP3 audio files or MPG compressed video files in order to listen to the interviews. The transcripts and still images are also accessible. Volunteers conducted and edited many of the interviews and developed the transcripts that accompany them.

Korean War National Museum

The Korean War National Museum (KWNM) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with a new Board of Directors, new professional staff, and a renewed focus on getting a world-class museum built now, in the lifetime of the Korean War veterans. Recent news media reports outlined a proposal of the KWNM to obtain 7,000 square feet of prime space on Navy Pier in Chicago for a state-of-the-art, world-class museum where visitors could come to honor and learn about the service and sacrifices of the Americans, South Koreans and their UN Allies in the "forgotten victory." Those plans are continuing to be developed, and the KWNM hopes to be able to share some exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center, located at 9 South Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. The KWNM welcomes donations of photographs, documents, diaries, and artifacts of those who served in the Korean War. To learn more about the KWNM, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.kwnm.org or look for the Museum Facebook.

Korean War Booklet

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association, an all-volunteer organization, has published a booklet, *A Brief History of the Korean War*, copies of which have been provided free of charge to public libraries, high schools and junior high schools in Illinois. Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a \$10 check or money order to: Illinois Korean Memorial Association, P.O. Box 8554, Springfield, IL 62791.

Tax deductible donations are welcome. One hundred percent of all donations go to the book project and to the upkeep of the Illinois Korean War Memorial.

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